



**U.S. Immigration
and Customs
Enforcement**

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News Release

MICHIGAN COUPLE INDICTED ON HUMAN TRAFFICKING CHARGES

Child forced to clean and cook for family

DETROIT—The Justice Department today, following an investigation by U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE), announced the indictment of a Michigan couple charged with forcing a juvenile girl from Cameroon into involuntary servitude for financial gain.

According to the two-count indictment, which was unsealed today, Joseph Djoumessi and Evelyn Djoumessi violated federal law by fraudulently bringing a 14-year old girl from Cameroon into the United States and using her as an unpaid domestic servant in their Farmington Hills, Mich. home for almost four years. The Djoumessis are permanent resident aliens also from Cameroon.

“It is a basic and fundamental human right to be free, and no child should ever be forced to live in a world of fear and involuntary servitude,” said ICE Special Agent in Charge Brian M. Moskowitz. “Today’s indictment is a testament to our solemn commitment to protect those who cannot protect themselves. While we cannot restore someone’s childhood, we can bring their abusers to justice.”

If convicted, the Djoumessis face a maximum sentence of up to 20 years in prison, three years supervised release, restitution and a \$250,000 fine for each count. An indictment is an accusation, and a defendant is presumed innocent unless and until proven guilty.

The criminal charges in this indictment are the result of an ICE investigation under Operation Predator, a nationwide ICE initiative to protect children from sexual predators, including those who travel overseas for sex with minors, Internet child pornographers, criminal alien sex offenders, and child sex traffickers. Since Operation Predator was launched in July 2003, ICE agents have arrested more than 4,900 individuals, including 128 in Michigan.

ICE encourages the reporting of suspected child predators and any suspicious activity through its toll-free hotline at 1-866-DHS-2ICE. This hotline is staffed around the clock by investigators.

Suspected child sexual exploitation or missing children may be reported to the National Center for Missing & Exploited Children, an Operation Predator partner, at 1-800-843-5678 or <http://www.cybertipline.com>.

The case is being jointly prosecuted by attorneys from the Civil Rights Division and the United States Attorney's Office for the Eastern District of Michigan.

ICE

U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement was established in March 2003 as the largest investigative arm of the Department of Homeland Security. ICE is comprised of five integrated divisions that form a 21st century law enforcement agency with broad responsibilities for a number of key homeland security priorities.